

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, November 18, 1993

Published Since 1877

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capsules

MCDONALD'S RESTAURANTS REFUSE TO SPONSOR "WAYNE'S WORLD:" TUPELO — Hundreds of McDonald's restaurants, reacting to complaints from their customers, are refusing to participate in a corporate promotion of the movie "Wayne's World." "It is sad that McDonald's, the largest restaurant chain in the world, decided to approve and promote the movie which endorses a lifestyle of promiscuity, irresponsibility, and profanity for teenagers," said Donald Wildmon, president of American Family Association. He said the movie is geared toward teenagers. "Traditional families can no longer trust McDonald's. They have decided to push the leftwing social agenda of Hollywood." AFA says that hundreds of McDonald's restaurants in Texas, North Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee, and other states have decided not to participate in the video promotion set to begin later this month. The response came after concerned individuals made complaints about the video to their local restaurants. The "Wayne's World" video being distributed by McDonald's contains a promotional spot for another video, "Time Out." "Time Out" is billed as an anti-AIDS video hosted by Arsenio Hall and Magic Johnson. Johnson has the HIV virus as the result of a promiscuous lifestyle. Hall and Johnson urge teenagers to use condoms in their sexual activity to help prevent AIDS despite the fact that condoms have a failure rate as high as 33%. It presents sex among teenagers as normal and approved, with only a small segment in the video referring to abstinence.

SOUTHERN SEMINARY ANNOUNCES GIFTS OF NEARLY \$5 MILLION: LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Amid activities surrounding the inauguration of its ninth president, Southern Seminary announced gifts totalling nearly \$5 million. The Louisville, Ky., school announced Oct. 14 a \$2.7 million pledge from Faye Stone, widow of Judge A.P. Stone of Springfield, Mo., to endow the seminary's new Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism, and Church Growth. The next day Walter and Georgia Chiles of Eustis, Fla., committed \$2 million to the seminary. This gift is the couple's second significant financial contribution to the seminary within the past year. In December, the Chiles committed \$2.2 million for endowed professorships and a scholarship fund for international students. Their most recent gift has not yet been designated, according to Thomas F. Mabe, vice president for institutional advancement. "In terms of securing financial resources, this may well be the most significant week in the history of Southern Baptist theological education," said seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr.

"EXPERIENCING GOD" SERIES TO AIR ON ACTS, FAMILYNET: FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Author and teacher Henry Blackaby is the featured guest for six weeks on ACTS and FamilyNet's Family Enrichment Series program beginning Nov. 5. All programs will be aired Fridays at 10 p.m. Eastern Time. Blackaby, director of the Office of Prayer and Spiritual Awakening at the Home Mission Board, is teaching his study series "Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God." The 13-week study has been condensed to a six-week course for airing on ACTS and FamilyNet. The "Experiencing God" series concludes Dec. 10 with a live televised question-and-answer segment. Blackaby will face a studio audience and home viewers can call a toll-free number to ask questions about the study series. The Family Enrichment Series is produced by the RTVC. Each month a new series offers information on a variety of topics. Blackaby joins a lineup of well-known personalities such as James Dobson, Chuck Colson, and Kay Arthur. ACTS is a faith and family cable television service of the RTVC, reaching 19 million homes through VISNACTS, the Faith and Values Channel. FamilyNet is a broadcast television program service owned and operated by the RTVC and is carried by 120 stations reaching more than 40 million homes.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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SYOD OD U WUOSYWEK DULOTR, UTM BACSYL
AW UKK UHHIZSUSOAT, SYUS HYCODS XIDED
HUFU OTSA SYI BACKM SA DUGI DOTTICD; AW
BYAF O UF HYOIW.

WOCDS SOFASYL ATI:WOWSIIT

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Twelve:Thirty.

Anti-evangelical sentiment a challenge — "Baptist" not household word in Mormon-dominated Utah, Idaho

By Mark Wingfield

SALT LAKE CITY (BP) — Imagine being a Southern Baptist in a region where evangelical Christians represent about 3% of the population.

Imagine living in a culture dominated in nearly every way by a religion you consider anti-Christian.

Imagine your family living in the territory of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention.

Few Southern Baptists who have grown up in the South can comprehend the challenge facing Southern Baptists in Utah and Idaho, says Clyde Billingsley, executive director of the two-state convention.

It is a challenge that impacts every area of life — politics, education, shopping, neighborhoods, and religion.

The population of every county in Utah is predominantly Mormon. The same is true for most of southern Idaho, and Mormonism still is a powerful presence throughout northern Idaho as well.

About 72% of Utah's population identifies with the Mormon church, according to statistics reported in "Churches and Church Membership in the United States 1990." And 90% of those who claim a religious affiliation are Mormons.

In Idaho, 27% of the population is Mormon, and 53% of all who claim a religious faith identify themselves as Mormons.

Less than 1% of Utah residents are Southern Baptists; less than 2% in Idaho.

Being a religious minority is one thing, Baptists in the region explain, but having to endure the strong influence of Mormonism makes things even more difficult.

Southern Baptists generally consider the Mormon church, the

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, to be a religious sect that is not Christian in doctrine. Mormon doctrine also teaches that non-Mormon churches are "Satan's hirelings."

Mormons also oppose Southern Baptists because they are among the most evangelical Christian witnesses in Mormon territory, Billingsley explains.

In past generations, Southern Baptists in Utah and Idaho have experienced intense persecution from Mormons, Baptist pastors report. That is changing some, but pressure remains, especially in the rural areas, they say.

While metropolitan Salt Lake City has become more diverse due to people moving in from other regions, the rural areas of Utah and Idaho remain as much as 95-99% Mormon, Billingsley says.

That makes starting and growing churches in those areas especially difficult.

But Baptists have recorded a number of success stories.

Warren Osburn and his wife Peggy moved to Wellington, Utah, in 1983 to start a Southern Baptist church in a town with no evangelical witness. In seven years, they built a congregation of about 100 people before moving to serve a struggling church in Salt Lake City.

Mrs. Osburn still remembers asking for help in a department store one day and having every clerk turn and walk away from her because she was a Baptist pastor's wife.

"Things have been changing in the last few years, though," Osburn says. "Mormons are trying to take on the image of Christianity."

Billingsley says he thinks this is due in part to the Southern

Baptist Convention's decision to hold its 1998 annual meeting in Salt Lake City. Mormon officials — especially in Salt Lake City — are preparing to make the most favorable impression possible for Baptist visitors, he believes.

Even in some more remote areas, tensions are lighter between Baptists and Mormons.

"The LDS churches give us very few problems," says Royce Shoemate, pastor of First Church of Vernal, Utah. Vernal is a town of about 12,000 people located on the extreme eastern edge of the state.

First Baptist, which averages slightly more than 100 in attendance, is the largest and strongest Baptist church in the eastern part of the state.

Even though blatant persecution is not so obvious, the influence of the Mormon church still poses a threat to Christianity, Shoemate says.

"The greatest danger is for Christians who move here from other places and do not stay close to the church. Their children end up dating and marrying LDS people."

"Some people moving here see Mormons as another Christian religion. The terms and language they use sound very Christian. But what they mean is very different."

Baptist churches must hold up the truth of Scripture against the teachings of the Mormon church, Shoemate and other Baptist pastors in the area say.

Even though the pressure is easing some, difficulties still remain. Billingsley recounts the story of a Baptist minister's son who just last year was harassed by a Mormon teacher — apparently because the son had said he intended to be a Baptist preacher himself.

Wingfield writes for Kentucky WESTERN RECORDER.



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may hear...

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Gift with mankind — give to the
Cooperative Program.

Baptist Record

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

A long historical trail

The group was slow in gathering. The year was 1836, and they were to consider "the propriety of forming a Baptist State Convention." Ashley Vaughn affirmed the proposed convention would have no dictatorial authority over churches or associations. The grand objective "shall be the increase of evangelical and useful knowledge, the support of missionary service at home and abroad, and to promote the true interest of the church at large and of those especially that may be conducive to the union, peace, harmony, and love among themselves."

This was indeed a noble gesture, and we continue today to follow these guidelines.

At the time of this writing, the 158th session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention is about to convene (Nov. 16-17) in Jackson. The 157 previous meetings have not always been peaceful, nor conducive to harmony. In the early conventions, messengers discussed observance of the Lord's Day, the state of religion, temper-

ance, slavery, publications, home and foreign missions, and relations with the North.

During the War Between the States (1861-65), the soldiers who deserted from the Confederate Army were subject to discipline in Baptist churches. Schools, convention organization, and enlarging the work were the main features after the war. Churches, associations, and the convention are still autonomous, and working together is still on a cooperative basis.

Before this convention is over, there will likely be discussion on Mississippi College, the Clarke College Committee, the Cooperative Program, subsidies to conference centers, associations, and **The Baptist Record**. Strong resolutions on abortion, homosexuality, President Clinton, Christian education, gambling, and other social, religious, and political issues will be proposed.

Mississippi has long been blessed with good leadership in our convention, boards, and agencies. Emotional stampedes have

been rare. The wisdom and insight of the previous leadership has not been cast aside with last year's ballot book, but has been carefully considered.

Much is at stake. We now have nearly 700,000 Baptists in 1,985 churches. We have an opportunity to mold, shape, and move our state toward the will and purpose of God. Pray it will not be sacrificed upon the altar of a lesser purpose. The King and his cause are more important than any personal ambition or agenda. Good leadership will mean continued growth and a biblical influence in the Magnolia State. Our influential institutions continue to provide an essential ministry in support of our goals.

Excellent preaching, singing, unique choirs, quartets, and choral groups insure a large attendance. Our prayer is that all Mississippi Baptists will continue a flourishing fellowship which spells out peace and harmony. Openness, honesty, and integrity will go a long way in providing such a convention process. We look forward to the 159th session.

JOE
MCKEEVER

Churches represent America's last hope for "community," Moyers says

MARSHALL, Texas (ABP) — Churches, like the East Texas Baptist congregation in which he grew up, are among the last places in America where a sense of community survives, veteran journalist Bill Moyers said.

Moyers, introduced by pastor W. Wallace Watkins simply as "Henry and Ruby Moyers' son," spoke Nov. 7 at the 50th anniversary service of Central Church, Marshall, Texas. The award-winning broadcaster reflected on American culture, faith, and his own religious heritage.

"America has changed so much over these last 50 years," Moyers said. "Sometimes for the better, sometimes not. One of the casualties has been that sense of community which provided people with shared values and familiar landmarks."

"In some respects television has become our commons. But television is what someone else does for you," he said. "It happens without us, often in violence to our values. Lonely, suspicious, and vulnerable, many Americans today take refuge in the comfortable lie rather than face the uncomfortable truth."

Too many Americans prefer the illusion of the entertainment media rather than the difficult

reality of living and loving together in a shared community of faith, Moyers said.

"The truth, the uncomfortable truth ... is love — God's love for us and our love for each other," he said. "I learned in this church that you never stand taller than when you're on your knees. And I learned in this church that you're never empty-handed when you stretch your hand out to someone else."

"That's why churches today for all their faults — and God knows we have them — are the last places in America, in many respects, where a sense of community still survives."

Looking back, Moyers said, he was reminded afresh of the lessons he learned — particularly concerning the "stewardship of responsibility" of each generation to those who came before and those who follow.

"Being a Christian is an adventure in freedom within boundaries of accountability to God and to each other," he said.

"I learned about humanity in this church," he said. "I learned about frailty and forgiveness and fellowship."

"I learned about democracy in this church," he said, noting the equal voice of every member and

the responsibility of leaders to "serve, not to rule" the congregation.

"I learned about the Bible here. It was the anchor of our beliefs, but it was no icon," he said. "Our pastors preached it as the Living Word whose revelation offers new insight in every age but requires our participation in its application."

Soul competency — the privilege and responsibility of each individual to come to God through no intermediary except Jesus — was central to the faith Central Baptist instilled in its members, Moyers said.

"Created with the imprint of divinity from the mixed clay of earth, you and I are endowed with the freedom and capacity to choose to be 'response-able' — a grown-up before God. When God touched that clay, God touched our minds with the power to think and reason," he said.

"Truth is not some doctrinal proposition frozen like flavor in a popsicle. Truth emerges from experience and encounter and sharing in a community of faith whose members struggle daily to love justice and mercy and to walk humbly with the Lord. Truth breathes life into tradition."

THE FRAGMENTS

Instantly

Instant coffee, instant tea, instant everything seems to be available. We live in an instant age.

Yakov Smirnoff, comedian, says that when he came to the USA from Russia, he was not prepared for the incredible variety of instant products available. He said, "On my first shopping trip, I saw powdered milk. You just add water and you get milk. Then I saw powdered orange juice. You just add water and you get orange juice. And then I saw baby powder. I thought to

myself, what a country!"

Discipleship is not an instant product. Salvation is the beginning of what Eugene Peterson calls "a long obedience in the same direction."

Some Christians never begin this journey. First, you must discover your spiritual gift and then you must develop that gift. Having discovered and developed that gift, then you must display it. Soldiers are not trained to sit around the barracks. (BSSB, James E. White)

— GH

"I could wish..."

I'll not soon forget sitting on a bench in the subway station in Madrid, Spain. Charles had gone to buy a ticket, and I became aware of a young man who was sitting beside me. He smiled and spoke. I replied and we began a conversation. I learned that his name was Arturo.

"Why are you in Spain?" he asked.

"To visit a son and his family and to travel on the mainland and to the Canary Islands. We lived in Spain for quite a while."

"Were you military?" he asked.

"No, we were Baptist missionaries," was my reply.

He seemed a little uneasy over that reply. I told him about Jesus,

"the Way, the Truth, and the Life."

There wasn't time to say much. Arturo confessed, "I have no religious faith of any kind. So far I have managed to get along without it."

I handed him a tract and said, "I wish you could know the experience of a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ."

As Arturo stepped on the subway, he seemed to leave a word hanging in the air, "Ojala" (meaning, "I could wish," but with an Arabic origin, "Would that Allah accomplish this").

Arturo waved goodbye and the train moved into the darkness of the tunnel.

— Indy Whitten

The Baptist Record

VOLUME 117 (ISSN-0005-5778) NUMBER 40
Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

Editor.....Guy Henderson
Associate Editor.....William H. Perkins Jr.
Advertising/News writer.....Teresa Dickens
Editorial Associate.....Florence Larrimore
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Bookkeeper.....Betty Anne Bailey
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Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Deborah Brunt, Corinth; Susan Kinton, Walnut Grove; Randy Turner, Laurel; Horace Kerr, Brandon; Grady Collins, Philadelphia; Teresa Dickens, secretary.
Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Send news, communication, and address changes to The Editor, Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 (601) 968-3800

Jackson principal disciplined for allowing prayer

JACKSON — Wingfield High School principal Bishop Knox said he was put on indefinite administrative leave after he allowed a student to lead a prayer over the school's intercom.

According to an article in the Nov. 13 issue of the Jackson *Clarion-Ledger*, the leave was ordered after Knox met Nov. 11 with John Sanders, assistant superintendent for Jackson Public Schools.

Knox said he followed the guidelines set by a November 1992 ruling by the 5th Circuit

Court of Appeals that permits student-initiated prayer at graduation ceremonies.

"The students wanted the prayer, the student council endorsed the concept, and they called for a student body vote," Knox said.

Students voted 490-96 in favor of school prayer Nov. 5 after the student council proposed the idea. Knox said he alerted district administrators before that date of the action students were taking.

Student volunteers offered the

prayers along with announcements aired over the school's intercom Nov. 9, 10, and 11.

"In my opinion, the students have a right to pray if they want," Knox said, adding he couldn't comment on how school administrators reacted to the school-prayer proposals.

Knox said the prayer followed the Supreme Court's guidelines because it was "non-denominational and non-proselytizing." He recalled the prayer as beginning, "Almighty God, we beg your

blessings on our country, parents, and teachers... I can't remember the rest."

Lynn Watkins, director of the Mississippi American Civil Liberties Union, said the 5th Circuit U.S. Court ruling permits student-initiated prayers at graduation ceremonies only, not in schools.

"The Bill of Rights is not up for a popularity contest," The *Clarion-Ledger* quoted Watkins as saying. "Majority vote can't be used to force one school of thought on a group."

Watkins said the ACLU is not against prayer, religion, or worship, but said none has a place in public schools: "That amounts to government-sponsored religion in our view."

Gerald Jones, Wingfield High School PTA president, said parents support Knox.

"All I know is that the whole community is very supportive of the principal, and we support him doing what is good for the school even if it lands him in hot water," said Jones.

"Traditional Values" speaker greeted by rioting homosexuals

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. (EP) — The appearance of a guest speaker who has opposed gay rights legislation led to a violent confrontation with homosexuals at a Baptist Church in San Francisco.

Lou Sheldon, chairman of the California-based Traditional Values Coalition, was scheduled to speak at the Sunday evening service Sept. 19 at Hamilton Square Baptist Church in San Francisco. The church did not publicize Sheldon's appearance, but local newspapers announced the speaking engagement and called for a protest.

According to David Innes, pastor of the church, on the evening of Sept. 19, 75-100 homosexual rioters appeared to disrupt the meeting.

"The rioters assumed complete control of the exterior property and grounds of the church," he reported. "In spite of several requests to have them removed, the officers in charge insisted that everything was

under control and that police procedures and regulations would not allow him to do so."

According to Innes, the protesters blocked the doors to the church, screaming and assaulting people who attempted to enter the building. Rioters threw rocks and eggs, and replaced the Christian flag which usually flies outside the church with a homosexual flag. Innes reports that the homosexual demonstrators damaged a door, overturned benches, and broke an address number on the church building.

At one point, said Innes, the rioters chanted, "We want your children. Give us your children."

Police made no arrests during the incident, though a citizen's arrest of one rioter was made. Innes said that at one point when he called police to request more officers, he was told, "You must understand. This is San Francisco," and was told that no backup officers would be sent.



Haiti mission: More food

Southern Baptist missionary Mark Rutledge (left) and two Haitian farm workers talk about the plant life on their farm in Haiti. It's part of Rutledge's constant search for better ways of raising crops, using locally available materials. He teaches such methods to farmers, who in turn teach others. Hungry Haitians will need his agricultural ministry more than ever as renewed economic embargo makes life even harder in the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, November 18, 1993

Published Since 1877

Clinton child porn rebuke not good enough, critics say

By Tom Strode

WASHINGTON (BP) — President Bill Clinton's rebuke of the Justice Department's new definition of child pornography is on target, but his call for new legislation on the issue is not, critics of the department's action said recently.

In a Nov. 10 letter to Attorney General Janet Reno, the president said he agreed with a recent Senate resolution, which said a Justice Department brief in a recent case "did not accurately reflect the intent of Congress" in enacting child pornography legislation. The Senate approved the non-binding resolution by a 100-0 vote.

"I find all forms of child pornography offensive and harmful... and I want the federal government to lead aggressively in the attack against the scourge of child pornography," Clinton said in his letter to Reno.

The department "should promptly prepare and submit any necessary legislation to ensure that federal law reaches all forms of child pornography, including the kinds of child pornography at issue in the Senate resolution," Clinton said.

According to a Justice spokesman, the department will begin work on new legislation immediately, the Associated Press reported. The Senate resolution and the president's letter followed Supreme Court action in response to a Justice Department brief contending child pornography must "show minors engaged in the conduct of lasciviously exhibiting their (or someone else's) genitals or pubic areas" and must include visible depiction of the genitals.

Reno said Nov. 4 she agreed with the new interpretation of the law. The Justice Department's previous interpretation of the 1984 law focused on the intention of the

adults producing the material rather than that of the children in the photos or on videotape.

Clinton's solution to the problem is unsatisfactory, defenders of the previous interpretation said.

Patrick Trueman, government affairs director of American Family Association and former head of the Justice Department's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, said in a written statement, "The message the full United

States Senate was sending the Clinton administration when it voted 100-0 was that the Department of Justice was wrong in its interpretation of the current federal child pornography law. There is no need for further legislation; there is a need for the Justice Department to vigorously apply the current law."

Strode is director of media and news information, Washington office, CLC.

Executive Committee approves MBCB policy changes, BSU work

By Tim Nicholas

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Executive Committee, in its November meeting, approved minor policy changes and okayed renovations at Northeast Mississippi Community College's BSU center.

The committee approved changes in life and health coverage for employees which changes coverage little, but makes for savings of \$6,612 per year in premiums.

Although religious organizations are not required by law to comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act, the committee voted to make the changes. Northeast's BSU center, owned by the convention board, was authorized to effect renovations to accommodate handicapped persons. Total cost for wheelchair accessibility is \$5,810. Work will be done by Bobby Davis, contractor. Money will come from the Board Operating Account.

The committee recommended adding to the board's policy manual information concerning the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993. This requires employers such as the convention board to make available up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to its employees each year for specified family and medical reasons such as birth or adoption or for care of an immediate family member with a serious health condition. This will be voted by the full board in December.

The committee will also propose to the full board in December that the policy concerning the definition of "new work" be expanded to certain churches that have been in existence more than 24 months. This will allow new work which is just getting ready for land purchase or building to get board help after two years of existence.

Nicholas is director, Office of Communication, MBCB.



Winscott Scholarship established at MC

The Board of Ministerial Education of the Mississippi Baptist Convention has established the Jack Winscott Memorial Scholarship at Mississippi College. The first recipient is Steffanie Haskins (second from right), currently minister of youth at Twin Lakes Church in Madison. J.M. Wood, minister of music at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, and current president of the Board of Ministerial Education, made the presentation, with members of the Winscott family on hand. Winscott, a 1964 graduate of Mississippi College and former president of the Board, was recently killed in an automobile accident. From left are Jacob Winscott, Wood, Josh Winscott, Haskins, John Winscott, and Janie Hewlett Winscott. Mrs. Winscott is a 1966 MC graduate; sons Josh and John are currently students at the college. (MC photo by Lance Clay)

Joel, Linda Gregory decide to divorce

NASHVILLE (BP) — Joel Gregory, former pastor of First Church of Dallas, and his wife Linda, have reached a joint decision to file for divorce, according to a statement released Nov. 11 by James T. Draper Jr., president of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Draper, a longtime friend of the Gregorys, said Joel Gregory contacted him Nov. 10 and asked his help in releasing information to the press. The following prepared statement was provided by the Gregorys:

"Joel and Linda Gregory have

by mutual, joint decision entered a petition for a non-contested divorce. The basis for this petition is a long-term difference in expectations compounded by the stress of public events in recent years. The Gregorys are in friendly relationship with one another and this is not a hostile or adversarial decision. They express love to the people they have served and request the prayers of their many friends."

Draper urged "all Southern Baptists to pray for Joel and Linda and their sons," ages 19 and 16.

Virginia won't exclude non-supporting churches

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) — Virginia Baptists decided not to require churches to contribute money to their statewide organization in order to participate in it.

Messengers to the Baptist General Association of Virginia narrowly defeated a motion Nov. 10 that would have amended their constitution to exclude those churches that fund Southern Baptist work, as required, but not on the state level.

Some conservative Virginia Baptist churches that disapprove of the moderate-controlled BGAV have been bypassing the state association in recent years and sending all their denominational contributions to the national Southern Baptist Convention.

Although that practice has not prevented those churches from participating in the BGAV, it has hurt the finances of the state association, critics say.

Virginia Baptists have failed to meet their state budget for at least three years. During the annual BGAV meeting Nov. 9-10, Virginia Baptists adopted a significantly smaller budget for 1994 that is more in line with the recent reduced giving. The new \$15.5 million budget is a 5% reduction from 1993.

In other action, the 4,000 messengers elected a slate of moderate officers and formalized relationships between Virginia Baptists and the Baptist Joint Committee and Associated Baptist Press.

Women's ministry no threat to WMU, BSSB leaders say

NASHVILLE (ABP) — A women's enrichment ministry being developed by the Baptist Sunday School Board will work alongside, not against, Woman's Missionary Union organizations in local churches, planners say.

WMU leaders, however, say they are not sure they welcome the help.

A Nov. 4 news release through Baptist Press announced the beginning of a new ministry to involve women in Bible study, prayer, and outreach. The ministry comes in response to a demand for materials from women's ministries groups in Southern Baptist churches, the release stated.

The ministry's intent is not to pull women from WMU programs, said Denise George, who was employed as the board's women's enrichment ministry specialist. George is a Birmingham, Ala., author and wife of a divinity school president.

"We are not going to be reaching out primarily to WMU women," George told Associated Baptist Press. "I see this as WMU and women's enrichment working side-by-side to reach people for Christ."

While reserving formal comment, WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien expressed some

concern that the new ministry could be perceived as competing with WMU.

"Since we have not discussed this with the Sunday School Board nor seen any plans, we really would be premature to make any comment on it," O'Brien said.

However, she admitted, based on the ministry's description as enriching women through Bible study, prayer, worship, fellowship, and evangelism, "there would be some overlap with what we are trying to do."

O'Brien questioned the desirability of encouraging women's enrichment ministries which could in some cases be construed as an alternative to WMU organizations. Such competition for the commitment of Baptist women could have a net effect of undermining missions education, she warned.

"There's only so much discretionary time women have today. I think we need to find out what our priorities are in determining what we offer," she said.

Baptist Sunday School Board President Jimmy Draper told ABP the new ministry will not compete with WMU. "We have no intention of having a competing organization with WMU," he said. "We view WMU as an ally

and not as a competitor."

Draper said WMU leaders should not automatically assume that any similarity or overlap with their programs poses a threat.

"I think WMU would like to feel they are sort of the exclusive women's organization in the church," Draper said. "I have no problem with that as long as we are not denied the right to pursue our assignment to produce materials for the whole church family."

"I hope people would not see anything we're doing as a threat to them or anything they're doing as a threat to us," he added. "I just thank God anybody is trying to minister."

Asked about a statement he made to Baptist journalists two years ago, when he denied any truth to a rumor that the Baptist Sunday School Board was considering an alternative women's organization to WMU, Draper said his remarks then were "totally unrelated" to the current ministry.

"I was responding to a rumor that I had come here with the express purpose of starting a women's ministry with my wife as director," he said.

While that rumor was false, the board has maintained "an ongoing interest in discipleship training and meeting needs," Draper said.

Southern Baptists excluded from environmental coalition

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP) — A new interfaith coalition to address environmental concerns from a religious point of view has excluded Southern Baptists.

The Evangelical Environment Network failed to invite any members of the largest evangelical denomination in the United States to join it in working with the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, a three-year, \$4.5 million project to help educate local congregations on the urgency of protecting God's earth.

Winston offers SWBTS extension

Classes for seminary extension diploma through Southwestern Seminary are being offered in the Winston Baptist Association Building, Louisville.

The second semester classes meet each Thursday, Nov. 18-Feb. 14. The first class will be "Contemporary Preaching," beginning at 6 p.m. and taught by R.A. Herrington. The second class, "Christian Ethics," will be taught by William Smith, beginning at 8 p.m. For more information, call David Norris, director, at 773-2290.

Ron Sider, president of Evangelicals for Social Action, later said EEN has every intention of working with Southern Baptists on environmental issues. Not including any representatives initially "was probably a slip on my part," Sider acknowledged. He said EEN is still in the early stages of organizing evangelical leaders for the network.

Sider discounted the oversight was based on a perception Southern Baptists are not concerned about the environment.

"The (Christian Life Commission) has produced some good materials on world hunger and environmental issues," Sider said. "In fact, Paul Gorman, executive director for the National Religious Partnership, has looked over them the last few months and is quite impressed."

Lamar Cooper of the CLC said he heard nothing of EEN before it was announced and lamented the fact no Southern

Baptists were asked to work with the delegation.

Referring to the criticism of non-involvement, he said, "I admit what we are doing is not extensive, but we would like to get some dialogue going so we can work together on this."

EEN is the evangelical member of the partnership, which also consists of the United States Catholic Conference, the National Council of Churches, and the Consultation on the Environment and Jewish Life.

The three-year partnership project will undertake a host of programs tailored to the individual faith groups with the intent of "greening" 53,000 local congregations with education and action kits. Legislative updates on issues of environmental justice and the creation of a toll-free Green Congregation Hotline phone line reporting grassroots religious environmental activities will be coordinated through the partnership.

Former BR editor suffers stroke

Don McGregor, editor emeritus of the Mississippi Baptist Record, suffered a stroke Nov. 13. He is a patient at Rankin County Medical Center in Brandon. Doctors said there is no reason not to expect full recovery.

McGregor served as editor of The Baptist Record from 1976 until his retirement in 1990. He was named emeritus after retirement.

Gospel response continues in Algeria despite threats

By Mike Creswell

BRUSSELS, Belgium (BP) — Neither death threats against Christians nor civil unrest in Algeria has stopped the gospel in its spread across the country, according to recent eyewitness accounts.

Civil violence grips the North African nation as militant Muslims battle the government in an attempt to install an Islamic-controlled regime similar to Iran's. More than 2,000 people have been reported killed in the fighting and terrorist attacks during the last two years.

An Islamic militant group claimed responsibility for the assassination of two Russian military officers in October. Other foreigners have been killed and kidnapped as militants apparently followed up on threats against them.

Muslim militants also have threatened Christian families inside Algeria as well as Christian workers outside the country, although no killings of Christians have been reported.

Some threats have appeared in letters sent to Christian radio pro-

grams broadcast in the region. One recent letter vowed: "You are our target. Your blood will be shed in Kabylia, land of Islam. Here is the result of your 'mission impossible.' Death!"

Another letter warned: "We know that you attack Islam in order to earn your bread and butter. But you have forgotten that you are in the process of digging your grave — causing your death — which will soon happen."

But threats haven't stopped many Algerians from responding to the gospel. Recent reports from inside the country confirm house churches and home Bible study groups continue to be established in many villages — especially in the northern mountainous area where Kabyle Berbers predominate.

One observer told of believers who walked more than nine miles through the rain to attend Bible studies. Men and women, young and old, are responding. And Christian outreach continues in the capital city of Algiers, but in a more subdued way, according to the witnesses.

Baptisms also are increasing, the sources say. They reportedly number in the tens, not the hundreds. But Christians familiar with the country still use words like "miraculous" and "amazing" to describe the growing movement.

Any response from Kabyle Berbers is considered significant. Historically almost 100% of them have been Muslims. Kabyles are one of the four main groups within the Berbers, a people group of 20 million spread through several North African countries. About 5 million Kabyles live in Algeria.

Berbers are considered to be part of "World A," a term used by Christian missiologists to describe people groups virtually cut off from the gospel. Such isolated peoples constitute the "final frontier" in Christian missions.

Positive response to a Christian radio program in the Kabyle language also continues. In recent weeks the program has received dozens of responses, including requests for Bibles and other Christian literature.

"For a long time I have been listening to your program... and I have begun to be interested... little by little in Christianity. Now I am a believer in your religion," a 23-year-old Berber man wrote to the program. "My problem is those around me, who despise and detest me because I am leaving their religion. This is difficult for me to accept."

The letter illustrates the tremendous family and social pressure exerted against new believers in North Africa.

The violence and threats of recent months have increased security concerns among Christian workers who record the programs and do follow-up. But the workers said they will continue their ministry.

Southern Baptists provide about \$20,000 per year for the Kabyle broadcasts. But most funding comes from another Christian organization, Thru the Bible. Other financial and technical support comes from three other Christian groups.

Creswell writes for FMB.

N.M. native named state paper editor

FARMINGTON, N.M. (BP) — New Mexico native John Loudat, 41, was elected editor of the Baptist New Mexican during a Nov. 8 meeting of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico executive board in Farmington, N.M.

Loudat, of First Church, Artesia, N.M., will succeed J.B. Fowler Jr. who is retiring Jan. 31 after 13 years as the paper's editor.

Thursday, November 18, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Bolivar men help Hispanic church

In October, six men from Bolivar Association traveled to Alamo, Texas, to work on the roof of the Hispanic Baptist church there. The team included (left to right): front row, Jimmy C. Taylor, Skene Church; Charles Mosley and Carl Tarver, Providence Church; Eugene Walden, Providence Church pastor; back row, Edwin James, Skene Church pastor; and Doyle Cummings, Immanuel Church, and Bolivar director of missions.

English continues to open doors in China

By Donald D. Martin

WUHU, China (BP) — China's healthy appetite for English remains one of the best ministry opportunities for Southern Baptists in the nation of 1.2 billion people.

"The door is open wider than ever before," said C.K. Zhang, a retired language professor at Anhui Normal University in Wuhu, China. "You can't send missionaries but that doesn't mean (Christian) work in China has stopped. You can come as foreign experts."

Zhang, 84, considers himself a "third-generation Southern Baptist" because his grandmother became a Christian through the ministry of Southern Baptist missionaries. He has devoted his life to teaching sociology and English in China.

"I felt the Lord called me to teach... but that's not the most important thing," Zhang explained. "It is more important to teach the gospel message. But as a Christian teacher you bring the gospel into every class you teach."

Southern Baptist teachers will have a chance to do just that next summer. The Foreign Mission Board is seeking 60 to 80 English teachers — certified to teach English as a Second Language (ESL) — to work in China for six weeks.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for outreach," said Charlie Wilson, a Southern Baptist education consultant based in Hong Kong. "Most students that summer teachers meet aren't Christians. These contacts are often the first opportunity for Chinese students to meet someone with the Christian faith."

"Whether the students make commitments to become Christians or not, they are introduced to foreigners who have made Jesus Christ their Lord. Many of these students are studying to teach

English themselves, and when they begin to teach they will relate their positive experiences to their own students."

The summer teachers program is entering its fifth year. Last summer's 53 Southern Baptist teachers, working on 11 campuses, taught more than 1,800 students during their six weeks in China, Wilson estimated.

"They planted seeds of witness with hundreds of people," Wilson said. "With teaching, you get to build relationships with people rather than just letting them pass by with only giving them a piece of literature."

For more information about the summer teachers program, call Bob McEachern at the Foreign Mission Board toll-free at (800) 999-3113, ext. 524.

Martin writes for FMB.

Arizona approves 8% hike to CP

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP) — Arizona Southern Baptists experienced a quiet annual meeting in which a spirit of worship overshadowed the transacting of business. A total of 513 messengers met Nov. 9-10 at North Phoenix Church.

Messengers unanimously adopted an almost \$63 million composite budget, which included the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention operating budget, \$3,663,344; Grand Canyon University, \$13,699,750; Baptist Foundation of Arizona, \$39,673,769; and Arizona Baptist Children's Services, \$5,744,585.

The Cooperative Program basic budget is \$160,000, or 8%, over the 1993 budget.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

A friend in my Sunday School class is married to an alcoholic who refuses to go to treatment. They have just about lost everything. She wants her husband to stop drinking, but he will not. Is there anything she can do?

Addiction is affecting every segment of our population. Most people with a drinking problem think they have no problem, or they refuse to stop. Deep inside every person who has an addiction — alcohol, drugs, work, etc. — there is a void they are trying to fill. Your friend cannot stop her husband from drinking. The only person she can change is herself. She needs to learn some coping mechanisms, and stop enabling her husband. Support groups, either in church or Alanon, could help your friend become more confident and to draw more appropriate boundaries. The work is not hers to do, but her husband's. Often, an alcoholic has to lose almost everything before he/she comes to their senses. Look in the telephone book for the closest support groups, and even offer to go with your friend. You could learn a lot while ministering to your friend.

Our eight-year-old son is beginning to ask questions regard-

ing sexual issues. As a father, I feel he is not ready for such information. How deep should I go with an eight-year-old?

Our children are being exposed to more information at an accelerated pace. Sex is used to market everything; even if we closely monitor our children, they still pick up on terms and concepts. Books like *Boys and Girls Alike* and *Different and My Body and Me* are made to read with our children. An excellent resource for parents called *Christian Sex Education* contains helpful hints on how to answer a child's questions at any age. These books are from the Baptist Sunday School Board's new *Christian Sex Education* series and are available at the Baptist Book Store in Jackson. [Mail order: (601) 977-9676] As parents, we are the best sex educators of our children. In the privacy of our homes, we can pass along values, proper information, and scriptural principles about sexuality. Sex is God's gift to all of us, and by talking to our children intelligently and caring about their sexuality, they develop a mature and good feeling about themselves. Then they understand the changes taking place around them, and in their bodies.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name and address not required. Remember: In time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



Winston Co. vols head west

A group of volunteers from Winston Association recently traveled to Wyoming to conduct revivals in several Southern Baptist churches in that state: Tongue River Church, Ranchester; First Church, Dubois; First Southern Church, Newcastle; Mountain View Church, Casper; Alcova Church, Alcova; Wright Church, Wright; Ten Sleep Mission, Ten Sleep; and Stampede Avenue Church, Cody. Volunteers were, left to right: Andre Dobson, pastor of South Louisville Church; Wayne Sanders, pastor of Noxapater; Charles Rook, pastor of Bethel Church, and his wife; Arnold Davis, pastor of Macedonia Church; Halton Davis Jr., pastor of Friendship Church, Sturgis; Jeff Gardner, minister of music and youth, Good Hope Church; Paul Blanchard, director of missions, Winston Association; Kenneth Kemp, member of First Church of Dearmanville, Anniston, Ala.; and Randy Hagan, pastor of First Church of Dearmanville, Anniston Ala.

Regular churchgoers see America more positively than others

GLENDAL, Calif. (ABP) — Americans who attend church regularly are far more optimistic about the nation's condition than those who attend church seldom or never, a new Barna poll has found.

For example, less than 10% of all Americans believe citizens have improved their moral values in the last 10 years, and more than 20% believe moral values have declined. The majority (65%) believe moral values have not changed either for the better or the worse.

However, people whose beliefs classify them as "born-again" Christians are significantly less likely (14% compared to 20% nationwide) to say moral values have declined.

Similar trends were found in measuring attitudes about spiritual commitment, honesty and integrity, and personal selfishness.

Weekly churchgoers (27%) are far more likely than people who never attend church (11%) to see improvement in Americans' spiritual commitment.

Weekly churchgoers (26%) also are less likely to see decline

in honesty than people who attend worship sporadically (47%).

Weekly churchgoers (27%) also are less likely to believe dishonesty has gotten worse than are irregular churchgoers (47%).

"It is ironic that churchgoers see less moral decline and more spiritual improvement over the past 10 years than do Americans living outside the boundaries of church life," said pollster George Barna.

"It makes one wonder whether people who are active in churches are far more insulated from the wider society than are those who are only sporadically involved. Many churchgoers may simply be unable to see beyond the sanctuary door to what is going on in the rest of the country."

Churchgoers may be suggesting that others are experiencing the progress they see in their own lives, Barna said. "And they may not be right to do so."

Data for this study were drawn from a national random sample of American adults in July and August 1993.

N.Y. concentrates on missions

CORNING, N.Y. (BP) — "Declare Missions Advance" was the theme of the 24th annual session of the Baptist Convention of New York Nov. 4-5 at the Hilton Hotel in Corning, N.Y.

The 191 registered messengers and 54 visitors in attendance saw home missions efforts highlighted by a parade of flags of the states and a missions venture display provided by the Home Mission Board. Featured speakers were Larry Lewis, HMB president, and Mildred

McWhorter, retired Baptist mission center director from Houston.

A 1994 budget of \$2,808,900 was adopted by the convention, a 4.4% increase over 1993. The budget is mainly unchanged from the previous year except for a 4% increase in staff compensation. As in past years, the convention increased the percentage of its \$627,800 Cooperative Program budget to be sent to Southern Baptist mission causes by .25%, to 26.25% of undesignated receipts.

Arkansas adopts \$15 million budget

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP) — The Arkansas Baptist State Convention annual meeting, Nov. 9-10 at Park Hill Church in North Little Rock, attracted 1,263 messengers.

Messengers adopted a 1994 Cooperative Program budget of \$15.96 million. Included in the budget is \$5,249,170 for ABSC executive board programs; \$4,047,530 for state institutions and agencies, and \$6,663,300, or 41.75%, the same as last year, for Southern Baptist Convention causes.

Ronnie Rogers, pastor of Lake-

Carey Springs marks 125th anniversary

Carey Springs Church, Randolph (Pontotoc Association), will observe its 125th anniversary Nov. 21 with a day of celebration.

Terrell McGreger and Jeffrey Waldo, ordained by Carey Springs Church, will speak during the 10:30 a.m. worship.

Afternoon services will follow a Thanksgiving fellowship meal. Former pastors will be on program, along with special music. Anyone who wishes will be given an opportunity to share a special remembrance of Carey Springs.

MBMC sets pastoral care course dates

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center is accepting enrollment for its Clinical Pastoral Care Program for Jan. 11.

MBMC launched its first CPE program on May 13. CPE is theological and professional education for ministry. CPE brings theological students, ministers, and qualified lay people into supervised encounters with people in crisis situations. MBMC will have as resident Clinical educator Jack Follis, director of the Pastoral Care Department at East Mississippi State Hospital in Meridian.

For more information, call Paul Stephenson at (601) 968-5146.

Indiana ups budget, holds CP percentage

VINCENNES, Ind. (BP) — Messengers and guests meeting at Ridgecrest Church in Vincennes numbered 520, up 170 from the previous year's meeting. A 1994 budget of \$3,030,689 was approved, up from \$2,876,200 this year. Included is a budgeted \$1,899,532 in Cooperative Program receipts from local churches, up 6% from the previous year. The portion of receipts going to the Cooperative Program remains at 32.25%.

side Church in Hot Springs, was elected state convention president by a vote of 384-347 over Eddie McCord, director of missions for Independence Baptist Association.

Rogers, a trustee of Midwestern Seminary, said in a post-election interview, "The resurgence of the absolute inerrancy of Scripture and evangelism and holiness are things dear to my heart." He acknowledged the close presidential election "upset some and elated others," adding he is "overwhelmed that I've been allowed the opportunity."

A resolution expressing concern for the health of Shirley Moore, wife of state convention executive director Don Moore, also was adopted. Mrs. Moore, who is hospitalized with cancer, was unable to attend the annual

meeting. The resolution pledged to "continue in Christian love to pray for her."

Other resolutions which gained approval affirmed the sanctity of human life and opposed homosexuality, pornography, gambling, alcohol, and other drugs, and "the humanistic 'safe sex' message."

Ron West, a furloughing missionary to Taiwan, introduced a proposed resolution on the floor of the convention which failed to gain passage. The proposal called for the Convention Executive Committee to consider providing state conventions a more direct role in selecting Southern Baptist trustees in the interest of helping increase Cooperative Program support. After a voice vote was inconclusive, the proposal failed on a standing vote.

Illinois adopts its first \$5 million CP gift goal

EFFINGHAM, Ill. (BP) — Messengers to the Illinois Baptist State Association annual meeting Nov. 2-4 unanimously approved the first \$5 million Cooperative Program goal in its 86-year history.

Meeting at the Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham, Ill., the 794 registered messengers also increased the percentage of CP gifts to be forwarded to Southern Baptist Convention national and international ministries in 1994 by one-half of one percent.

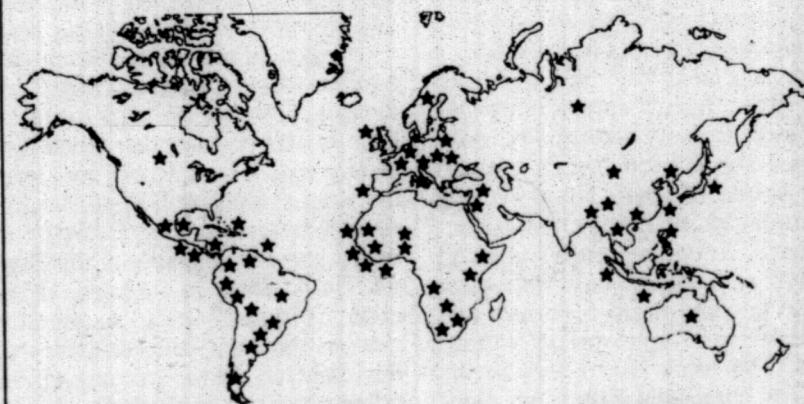
By acclamation, both Mississippian Charles Dampier, pastor of Herrin First Church, was re-elected to a second one-year term as IBSA president while Roger Ellsworth, pastor of Immanuel Church in Benton, was elected to a second term as vice president.

Messengers approved seven resolutions, including one expressing gratitude to Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi, and North Carolina volunteers who assisted in flood relief in Illinois during the past several months.

"I appreciate The Baptist Record keeping us informed. It is a blessing to read the home state news. Thanks for sending it."

— Imogene Harris
Missionary to Nigeria

The Baptist Record
is mailed free to missionaries in these countries



Angola	Denmark	Japan	Portugal
Argentina	Ecuador	Jordan	Puerto Rico
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Barbados	Germany	Mexico	Switzerland
Bolivia	Ghana	Mongolia	Taiwan
Brazil	Guatemala	Nicaragua	Thailand
Burkina Faso	Honduras	Niger Republic	The Gambia
Burundi	Hong Kong	Nigeria	Togo
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Thanks to your support of the
Cooperative Program

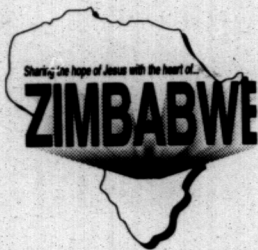
HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

November 18, 1993

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

AGRI-MISSIONS PROJECT IN ZIMBABWE EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS



Michael and Susan Loftice and their three children live in Beit Bridge, Zimbabwe. Just over a year ago Susan was teaching school in Texas while Michael gained needed seminary credits to work as an Ag-Missions missionary. They were turned down for career missions, but 10 years of vocational agriculture teaching and being raised on a sorghum-growing ranch, uniquely equipped Michael for the Mississippi Partnership project in Zimbabwe.

The Loftices' were appointed by Christian Services International to work for two years in Zimbabwe. This project is to help farmers learn how to prepare soil, plant seed, sow fertilizer and make maximum use of limited rainfall and to switch from maize to sorghum.

The original hope was to enlist 100 farmers who would participate. To date 200 have signed up to be a part. All the farms are small, but farmers must agree to set aside a demonstration plot regardless of how they plant the rest of their land. At every demonstration to help the farmers, Loftice conducts a Bible study and shares the plan of salvation, in addition to helping them with farming.

The Mississippi Baptist Agricultural Missions Fellowship and the Agricultural Missions Foundation have collaborated with the Brotherhood Department and the Partnership Missions Office in preparing for the project, providing additional financial resources, and in assisting the Loftice family to be relocated to Africa.

Through special gifts and budget from the Partnership, each farmer is provided sorghum seed, fertilizer, a small hand plow, and instructions about how to prepare the soil.

Michael Loftice also preaches for the English Language Church in Beit Bridge. Susan helps him with that ministry, home schools their children, and provides a comfortable home. Pray for this family as they work in a unique ministry in Zimbabwe. Pray for a rich harvest of sorghum, but more especially for a rich harvest of souls for the Kingdom. □

Student Day At Christmas

As the holiday season rolls around many churches consider the possibilities of having a Student Day at Christmas emphasis. Student Day at Christmas will challenge your church as you guide their focus to your campus and its ministry needs and opportunities. You will discover friends who will quickly encourage you in word and prayer as they walk with you on your campus.

Student Day at Christmas offers a

unique focus for your church whether you are located near a major university or even miles away. The church with hundreds of students, or only two or three, can participate in Student Day at Christmas for the very reason that every student longs to return home for Christmas.

Even if your church is miles from any campus, or your membership includes just two or three students, there is reason for excitement. You too can celebrate through Student Day at Christmas.

Student Day at Christmas typically

is the Sunday following Christmas. Find the time that best meets your needs. Remember the date for Student Day at Christmas should be selected well in advance because of the busy season.

In planning Student Day at Christmas, keep in mind the students schedules. If your church is in a university town students are almost always available. However, remember your most faithful students may be unavailable since their homes may be a

continued inside page HouseTops

SUIT PROJECT

What is it?

For over 29 years Baptists in Mississippi have enjoyed sending new suits to the pastors in new work areas. This is our way of letting the pastors in these areas of Southern Baptist life know that we care about and support them in their work.



Mississippi Baptists say
"MERRY CHRISTMAS"
to Pastors in
Alaska, Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Baptist Men's groups, individuals, churches, etc., can send their gifts payable to:

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD
Attention: Brotherhood Department, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Designate on your check: **Suit Project**

*Sponsored by the Brotherhood Department
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board*

pray this day

our denomination has asked that our foreign missions have priority in our thoughts during December... basic to the entire program is the foreign missionary - the one from your family, from your church family, your town, your state... pray this day for both usual and unusual needs of each missionary... some of their needs are just like ours... others we have a hard time understanding since we have not walked with them... but our love spans the globe as we pray this day

December 1-15, 1993

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
that each missionary family away from the States for the first Christmas will be strengthened by remembering God's call to his field 5	that Christmas traditions of missionary families may be a witness to folks they work with 6	that Missionary Kids who travel home from boarding schools to spend Christmas will have fun 7	that all the Christmas packages mailed from home will arrive safely in time for Christmas 1	for the church office staffs which are mailing missionaries' Christmas letters to friends and families here in the States 2	that travel plans for missionary families getting together in various countries for their Christmas away from home will work out 3	that ex of us will get our Christmas greetings to missionaries in the mail with the proper postage 4
that God will help you put feet to your prayers by at least providing a call home for some Missionary Kid in a college near you - ask your college BSU director 12	for music missionaries that their Christmas music will open doors of witness in their communities 13	for Missionary Kids in their local schools as they help their classmates understand why they celebrate Christmas 14	that missionary families will be able to separate their Christian celebration of Christmas from non-Christian celebration without being offensive 8	that we will remember that our financial support keeps the missionaries on the field 9	that remembering how important our financial support is we will forego a gift or two and give another gift to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering 10	for all the Missionary Kids who are in the States in college and wish they could go home for Christmas 11
			for parents whose Missionary Kids can't come home for Christmas 15	it isn't too late to be in Christmas touch with missionaries... your Prayer Ministry Office and your state WMU office can help with addresses...	<p>from the Prayer Ministry office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Box 530 Jackson, MS 39205 Phone 968-3800 Ext. 3904 Miss. Prayerline 1-800-787-PRAY</p>	

Student Day

continued from front page of HouseTops

hundred miles away. You need to begin making preparations, contacting and enlisting students, determining the program, and notifying everyone involved.

The Thanksgiving holiday may be the best time to enlist students for Student Day at Christmas. Mail a note to each student at their campuses, announcing Student Day at Christmas prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. A mid-term letter from home is always welcome. In fact, mention not only Student Day at Christmas, but remind them of your interest in their lives and how vital they are in the life of your church. Be sure to invite them to your Student Day at Christmas meeting over the Thanksgiving weekend.

As for a time for the Thanksgiving meeting . . . that's another concern. Depending on your holiday schedule, you might consider Wednesday night if your students are already home and your church has a traditional Wednesday evening program. You may consider coupling the meeting with a holiday fellowship over the weekend. You may even consider a breakfast meeting on Sunday. You might utilize a portion of Sunday School time for your Student Day at Christmas introduction, questionnaire, and enlistment. Most of all, your plans need to be determined by Thanksgiving.

Acquire the theme for Student Day at Christmas from the Student Ministry Department. This information is available in the Student Ministry Plan Book, which is a

free publication order by calling the Student Ministry Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, (615) 251-2777. Develop a questionnaire for your students to determine their interests and commitment to Student Day at Christmas. Give the students several possibilities and areas from which to choose. These can include reading Scripture, providing special music, playing one of the instruments for the worship service, serving as a usher, leading in prayer, just to name a few. Ask the students to select their choices of ministry opportunities.

Once the students return to school follow up with a letter of confirmation to each student who volunteered to share in Student Day at Christmas. Be sure to include their specific ministry responsibilities, the final schedule for Student Day at Christmas and all rehearsals.

Every church can participate in Student Day at Christmas. The benefits are numerous. Students will once again find their churches actively interested and involved in their missions on campus. What better way to commission each student as they return to their mission fields.

The high school seniors will find their attention riveted on the college years before them. It's a great opportunity for churches to challenge each teen to begin to discover their mission during their college years.

The possibilities are unlimited. Believe me, Student Day at Christmas offers students, families, and churches more than you can imagine. □

STUDENT DAY AT CHRISTMAS SERMON SUGGESTION

The first disciples had a personal encounter with Jesus Christ and went to tell others. We have been given the good news this Christmas season that the Messiah was born. How many times have we shared the good news?

The disciples were taken out of their ordinary lives and placed in the presence of Jesus. Jesus comes into our ordinary lives. Many times we miss the message He is trying to teach us because we fail to look for Him.

Invite students to share their favorite Christmas memories, family traditions, or gifts. Ask them to make a connection with their Christian walk or how they saw Jesus in a particular situation. For example, my favorite Christmas story is one I've heard for many years about my brother playing Baby Jesus when he was four months old. In the middle of the pageant, he began to cry. On the back row of the church, a woman stood up and yelled, "Baby Jesus is alive!" That's the spirit in which I wish we approached every Christmas that Baby Jesus is alive and we should proclaim that good news to everyone everywhere.

The sharing may take only two to three minutes for each student. If this service happens during an evening service, you may have time to open up for spontaneous reflections from the Me congregation, reminding them to draw a parallel to the Christian pilgrimage on which we all find ourselves.



Longtime prayer partners Dell Scoper (top left) and Alma Barnes (bottom left) received the 1993 Brown/Davis award for racial reconciliation at a celebration in Laurel, Oct. 21.

The two began more than 10 years ago to plan annual joint prayer services connected with the World Day of Prayer of the Baptist World Alliance.

Scoper, a member of First Church, Laurel, and Barnes, a member of St. Elmo Church, Laurel, were introduced by Joan Tyler (top right) of Collins, a former state WMU president, as being "friends to all."

The service which took place at Westminster Presbyterian Church, included a message by Louis Lamar, pastor of Mt. Sinai Church, Tupelo. Convenor was Allan Nix, Jones County director of missions.

Richard Brogan (lower right) of the Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, who developed the award, said this was the third year to make the award. Emmanuel McCall, formerly of the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, was the first recipient. Last year's recipients were Willie McPherson, HMB staffer and Okolona native, and G.L. Ford, retired pastor of Bissell Church, Tupelo and dean of the Tupelo center of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary.

The award was named for the late T.B. Brown and the late W.P. Davis, black and white Baptist ministers, respectively, who worked for racial reconciliation. □

CHURCH BUSINESS ADMINISTRATORS CONFERENCE

January 13, 1994

Broadmoor Baptist Church
787 E. Northside Drive, Jackson

This conference is jointly sponsored by Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, MBCB, and Hinds-Madison Baptist Association

- **PURPOSE:** An update on Reporting and Requirements for the Internal Revenue Service
- **TARGET AUDIENCE:** Church Business Administrators, Church Staff, Finance Committee Chairman, and Personnel Committee Members
- **FINANCES:** There is no charge for the conference. (You will be on your own for lunch.)
- **PERSONNEL:** Gene Hill, Senior Appeals Officer, Internal Revenue Service, Austin, Texas. Member of Hyde Park Baptist Church, Austin, Texas



AGENDA

9:00	Registration
9:15	Welcome, Prayer and Introduction
9:20	Morning Session "Church Reporting and Requirements for the IRS"
10:30	Break
10:45	Morning Session continued Questions and Answers
11:45	Lunch
1:00	Afternoon Session "Minister Reporting and Requirements for the IRS"
2:00	Break
2:30	Afternoon Session continued Questions and Answers
3:30	Adjourn

Information will include: IRS publications, Packet of forms, Handling of Contribution Records, Record Keeping, Designated Contributions, Employment Taxes, Ministers Income, Social Security for Members of the Clergy.

For further information contact: Julius Thompson, 968-3800 extension 3908 or James Webster, 362-8676. **SEE REGISTRATION FORM ON BACK OF HOUSETOPS.**



Mississippi Baptists now have a toll free phone line for prayer. The Mississippi PrayerLine number is 1-800-787-PRAY (7729). Your contribution to the prayer network with prayer itself and letting others know of needs will help link Mississippi Baptists to one another and to the Father.

Baptist Men's Day isn't really a bragging day, although there is some truth to the old adage "He who tooteth not his own horn, said horn will not be tooted." If you don't tell your church what Baptist Men are doing, no one else will. But Baptist Men's Day is more than program visibility. It's a celebration for and appreciation of the missions involvement of your men. It can also be the catalyst for continued missions involvement in 1994.

Baptist Men by nature, are action oriented. There is a tendency for some Baptist Men's units to focus on activities to the exclusion of ongoing missions education. To effectively involve men in missions we must maintain a balance between activities and

Baptist Men's Day

"MISSIONS INVOLVEMENT THROUGH SERVING IN CHRIST'S SPIRIT"

January 23, 1994

education. Baptist Men's Day scheduled for January 23, 1994, provides all churches an opportunity to focus on both missions education and missions activities. In the Baptist Men's

Planbook (1993-1994) suggestions are made to help Baptist Men make this a significant day of missions awareness. Through missions awareness we come to understand the Biblical principal of missions, Southern Baptist's historical nature of missions, the tremendous mission needs in present day world, and the trends that shape and efforts to reach Mississippi and our world for the Lord.

Every church deserves a focus on its Baptist Men. What better time to do it than January 23, 1994, when the whole Southern Baptist Convention is focused on that day. If your Brotherhood Department can assist you with resources, please give us a call. ☐

Church Business Administrators Conference REGISTRATION FORM

January 13, 1994

Complete this form and return to **Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Dept.**
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Name

Church Position

Address

City

Zip

Church

Association

Church Phone No.

Home Phone No.

STUDENT DAY AT CHRISTMAS 1993 ORDER OF SERVICE

Wise Men Still Seek Him

O Holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray

Prelude
Call to Worship

"Come and Worship"
(Genevox, #417-23, Anthem track #4198-88)

College Choir

Welcome
Hymn, No. 88 *
Prayer

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Student
Mendelssohn
Student

Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today!

Scripture: John 1:35-50
Offertory Hymn, No. 101
Offertory Prayer
Offertory

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

Student
TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM
Student
Students

We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell

Drama
Special Music

"Rooted and Grounded"
"Wise Men Still Follow Him Today"
(available on accompaniment cassette from Diadem, Inc.)

Students
Student

or
"We Who Were Walking in Darkness"
(Genevox, #417-33, Anthem track #4191-30)

Trio and
College Choir
Students

Sermon: My Favorite Christmas

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Hymn of Invitation, No. 86
Closing Hymn, No. 95
Postlude

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"
"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

St. Louis
GO TELL IT

* Hymn numbers are from *The Baptist Hymnal*, (Nashville: Convention Press), 1991.



A delegation of state officials from seven newly organized states in Russia were guests of the Cooperative Missions Department, MBCB.

Richard Brogan and Hickman Johnson, pastor of Farish Street Baptist Church, Jackson, answered questions about Southern religion and race relations in Mississippi.

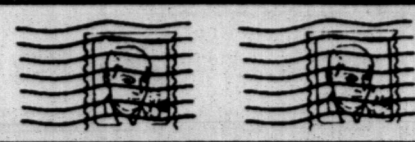
Jessie Dawson, BSU Coordinator, also shared about her work on predominantly black campuses.

The delegation were guests of International Visitors Center in Jackson. Brogan stated that for more than one hour questions about baptism, Baptist beliefs, race relations in Mississippi and Christian tenets were answered. ☐

HOUSE OF



Letters to the editor



Why relay message?

Editor:

I love Guy Henderson. I also love Fred Wolfe. Please know I am also confused.

Fred Wolfe, pastor, said he did not ask the pastor to recommend someone for president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. He told the pastor that some other pastors in Mississippi would like for him to consider doing that. Wolfe was just relaying a message. Why does a Mississippi pastor not relay his own message direct and not send it through Alabama?

Jerry Clower
Liberty

Prayers requested

Editor:

First, I want to say thank you to all the Mississippi Baptists who have had a part in my life through the local church, associational activities, GA camp, state choir festivals, Sword Drills, and Youth Night! I thank you for providing William Carey College where I spent two wonderful years completing my bachelor's degree. Thank you for participating in the Cooperative Program, and thereby

helping me further my education at Southwestern Seminary.

Though I haven't lived in Mississippi since 1976, I have continued to subscribe to **The Baptist Record**, and look forward to it each week. I was delighted recently to see the article about John Vanderford Jr. of Tulsa, Okla., receiving the Owen Cooper Award for volunteer missions.

For the past 13 years I have had the privilege of worshipping with John and Myra Vanderford at Memorial Church in Tulsa. We have had a special bond, as all three of us were raised Mississippi Baptists!

When John was in the sixth grade, his dad, the late John Vanderford Sr., moved his family to Pine Grove, where John Jr. met Myra Laird, the daughter of the late Thomas J. Laird. By the time John and Myra were in the eighth grade, they were boyfriend and girlfriend. After high school, they were married in Ellisville and this past summer celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. It occurred the week a group of Mississippi Builders were here, helping John and our church build a church building for our Vietnamese mission. Mississippians helping Mississippians help others!

Now I ask that Mississippi

Baptists say a special prayer for John as he is beginning a series of radiation treatments. We are praying God will heal John so he may continue to have many more years of service through his volunteer building efforts.

Thank you for allowing me to tell the "other half" of the story.

Sheila Dewese Mitchell
Tulsa, Okla.

Supports Leazer

Editor:

Regarding an article in **The Baptist Record**, Oct. 28, "Publication of speech to Masons leads to resignation request:"

We entertain a ludicrous notion against Masonry and assign one of our top professionals to lead a qualified and competent team on an expensive year-long exhaustive quest for the truth.

Then, we ignore their findings, substitute our own condescending opinion which could have been rendered initially without cost, publish it with his own name (the whole world knew he was working on it anyway), and ask for his resignation for announcing to the people in question, "We didn't say that!"

Well, this is a country of free speech, and [Gary] Leazer was not in the U.S. Army! "Gross insubordination." Ha! That's a good one. Further, patronizingly we ask our membership to pray for him and his family.... Well, I stand with Leazer on this one, and hope that he and his family will pray for the SBC during our apparent transition as we ever drift from autonomous bodies in convention toward a denomination of ecclesiastical hierarchy.

Have we forgotten that impor-

tant part when the Master taught us to pray, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us"?

Thank you, Gary Leazer; you did your best. I am sure your research led you to one other conclusion that I knew all along; that is, "I shall die a Christian and a Mason, though I might not die a Southern Baptist."

R. Dale Howe
Coldwater

Winscott tribute set

Editor:

Ingram L. Foster Jr., chairman of deacons of Prentiss Church, Prentiss, announced that the members of PBC are planning a tribute to celebrate the life and ministry of Jack Winscott, pastor, who was killed Oct. 12.

Winscott, who served from December 1985 until his death, will be remembered in a special service to be held during the morning worship hour Nov. 21. According to John Polk, chairman of the pastoral transition committee, it will be a service of celebration. "We want to remember the wonderful Christian, pastor, and friend who was Jack Winscott," Polk said. "It will be a time to be happy, and rejoice in the knowledge that all things work together for good to those who love the Lord, even in the time of unique tragedy," he continued.

A special part of the day will be an emphasis placed on the educational fund started for the children of Winscott. Two sons are students at Mississippi College, and the other is a sophomore in high school in Prentiss. The fund, with a goal of \$25,000, was established by members of

the congregation.

To conclude this special day of celebration, dinner on the ground will follow the morning service, with a brief devotional following this time. Anyone wishing more information regarding the day can call the Prentiss Church office at (601) 792-4215.

John A. Polk, chairman
Pastoral transition committee
Prentiss Church
Prentiss

Protect Gulfshore

Editor:

Concerning **The Baptist Record** article entitled, "Casino plan near Gulfshore dealt blow by supervisors" (Oct. 28), I was a member of First Church, Jackson, for 25 years. Our wonderful pastor, Douglas Hudgins, so very strongly believed in Gulfshore and encouraged people to take advantage of attending. I grew up with the wonderful spiritual blessings of Gulfshore. I feel strongly while at Gulfshore you're standing on holy ground.

I am just an ordinary Christian lady that loves God, his precious Word, his people, and the tremendous spiritual impact of Gulfshore. I want to say a heartfelt "thank you" to William H. Perkins Jr., Paul Jones, and others who believe in and protect Gulfshore.

We who so richly enjoy **The Baptist Record** certainly pray God's richest blessings on all of you who work in the Baptist building.

Frances Pierce
Terry

Illinois adopts first \$5 million CP goal

EFFINGHAM, Ill. (BP) — Messengers to the Illinois Baptist State Association annual meeting Nov. 2-4 unanimously approved the first \$5 million Cooperative Program goal in its 86-year history.

Meeting at the Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham, Ill., the 794 registered messengers also increased the percentage of CP gifts to be forwarded to Southern Baptist Convention national and international ministries in 1994 by one-half of one percent.

By acclamation, both Mississippian Charles Dampeer, pastor of Herrin First Church, was re-elected to a second one-year term as IBSA president while Roger Ellsworth, pastor of Immanuel Church in Benton, was elected to a second term as vice president.

Messengers approved seven resolutions, including one expressing gratitude to Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi, and North Carolina volunteers who assisted in flood relief in Illinois during the past several months.

女也对中国
的爱日益加深



Erin Thomas of Harrah, Okla., narrowly escaped death in an airplane crash that killed her Southern Baptist co-worker in China.

But Erin didn't give up teaching English in China. After five months of recuperation she returned and taught her English students to sing.

"Every Day in China Is Sweeter Than the Day Before."

* TRANSLATION

Erin's persistence is a living testimony to her Christian faith.

Perhaps yours can be too.

Call your Foreign Mission Board at
1-800-866-FMB1
to find out how you can serve overseas.



Foreign
Mission Board
of the Southern Baptist Convention

YOUR BRIDGE TO THE WORLD

Pinelake Baptist Church

hosts

**Skills for Calling-Caring Ministries:
Learning the Language of Healing**

featuring

John S. Savage

President of L.E.A.D. Consultants, Inc.

& author of *The Apathetic and Bored Church Member*

Jan. 14-16 and 28-30, 1994

The two-weekend event is designed to train pastors, church staff, and lay people to be effective listeners and visitors. The training will offer specific help to church leaders in reclaiming inactive members.

Cost is \$200 per person, plus housing and meals.
(Meals will be available at the church for \$5 per meal.)

For further information or to register, contact
Pinelake Baptist Church,
100 Spillway Rd., Brandon, MS 39042;
phone (601) 992-2630.

Registration deadline is Dec. 15, 1993.

Names in the News



Blanche Randall was honored Sept. 26 for teaching preschoolers in Sunday School at Valden Church, Valden, for 43 years. Randall, center, is pictured with some students she taught through those years. Leon Holly is pastor.



Joel P. Smith, (at left, center) was recently ordained to the ministry at First Church, Vancleave. Smith joined the staff of First Church on May 14, 1990. Pictured with Smith are Gordon E. Alford, left, minister of music, and Greg E. Potts, right, pastor.

Homecomings

Macedonia, Suqualena: Nov. 21; worship service, 11 a.m., Charles Davis, Louisville, speaker; noon meal; 1 p.m. service featuring The Sullivans.

Fairview (Sunflower): Nov. 21; 120th homecoming service, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall; David Carlton, pastor.

Pine Grove, Dumas: Nov. 21; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall at noon; 2 p.m. singing; Terry Ledbetter, Picayune, guest speaker; The Ministers Quartet, Ripley, singers; Philip Cooper, pastor.

Swiftwater, Greenville: Nov. 21; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.;

worship, 11; covered dish dinner in fellowship hall, noon; afternoon singing, 1; no night services; James Smith, D'Lo, guest speaker; Gene Foshee, pastor.

Revival Dates

Arrowood, Meridian: Nov. 21-22; weekend revival with Jeff Steele and The Steeles; 7 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. on Sunday; dinner on the grounds following morning services; Kevin Griffin, pastor.

Pews, pulpits, baptistries, stained glass, carpet, steeples, lighting, folding doors, theater seats

Van Winkle Church Furnishings & Pew Upholstery

Box 501, Fulton, MS. 38843
In MS. Toll Free 1-800-624-9627

We remodel & paint

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP)—Russell R. Tuck Jr., president of California Baptist College since 1984, has announced his retirement effective June 30, 1994. For eight consecutive years of his tenure, enrollment gradually increased to its current all-time high of 850 students and finances improved as well, eliminating the deficit in 1991.

Mark King was ordained as a deacon at Victory Church, Jefferson Davis Association, on Oct. 10. The service was conducted by Terry Traxler, previous pastor, and Charles Broome, pastor.

Former California editor dies

FRESNO, Calif. (BP) — Floyd Looney, editor of *The California Southern Baptist* from 1945-61, died Nov. 9 at a Fresno convalescent home where he had been a resident more than a year. He was 89.

Looney had been in declining health for some time, according to his wife, Ruby. The couple had been married 61 years.

In addition to his wife, survivors include two of the couple's three children and eight grandchildren.

Staff Changes

James David Caves recently resigned as pastor of Flat Top Unity Church, Picayune, and accepted the call as pastor to **New Zion Church, Kentwood, La.** He is a graduate of Delta State University and plans to graduate from New Orleans Seminary in December 1993. He is the former pastor of Bethany Church, Drew.



Caves

Victory Church, Bassfield, has called **Charles R. Broome** as pastor effective Oct. 1. His previous places of service were Clear Springs Church and Rocky Hill Church, both in Smith Association. He received his education at Southern Baptist Center.

First Church, Byram, has called **Tim Moak** as music director effective Sept. 29. He is a graduate of Mississippi College. His previous place of service was Heuck's Retreat Church, Brookhaven.

Moak

Rolling Creek Church, Quitman, has called **Randy Boone** as minister of music and youth effective Nov. 14. He is a graduate of

Covington Theology Seminary, Rossville, Ga. He previously served Haven Woods Church, Wilmer, Ala.

Jim Yates has been called as minister of youth and activities of **First Church, Corinth.** He is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and Southwestern Seminary. Yates moved to Corinth from First Church, Kosciusko.



Yates

Lester M. Jeffers has resigned **Sunflower Church, Sunflower,** and will be available for interim, pulpit supply, and revivals after Nov. 24. He can be contacted through his daughter whose address is 513 West Park Avenue, Apt. 19, Box 4, Greenwood, MS 38930 or call 455-4627.

Center Terrace Church, Canton, has called **Paul Moseley** as minister of education, music, and youth, effective Nov. 1. A native of Alabama, he received his education at Samford University and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was First Church, Slocumb, Ala.

Tinsley Church has called **Kerry Burrough** as pastor, effective Nov. 17. He previously served as pastor of Cornerstone Church, Vicksburg, and is a student at New Orleans Seminary.

CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 50 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads.

BAPTISTRY/BATHTUB REPAIR. Porcelain or fiberglass. No job too large or small. Statewide service. No mileage charge. K&K Bathtub Repair, 1642 Hwy 84E, Laurel, MS 39440; 1-800-349-2882.

BIG TOP GOSPEL TENTS, all sizes. Open Air Ministries. (318) 939-2239.

YOUTH GROUPS NEEDED in Atlanta, Orlando, Philadelphia, Baltimore, for summer mission projects 1994. We provide meals, lodging, assignment. For more information, costs, contact Dr. Harry Fowler, Youth on Mission, Box 2095, Rocky Mount, NC, 27802. (919) 985-4499.

FOR SALE: Ford 1987 Econoline 350, 29-passenger bus. Lakeshore Congregational Methodist Church, (601) 373-0295.

ADOPTING your newborn/toddler would be a special blessing for us. Childless couple wanting to become parents. Call Caren or John collect: (518) 235-8566.

POND STOCKERS: Albino, channel and blue catfish, grass carp, bass, crappie, bream. Phone (601) 267-9859.

ATTENTION: Church Personnel Committee, Administrators. Sample Personnel/Operations Manual. Suggested organization charts, committee assignments, position descriptions. Easily tailored to your church. For copy send \$10 plus \$2.50 (P&H) to Roberts, POB 1544, Ridgeland, MS 39158.

FOR SALE: Kimball 700 Electric organ. Excellent condition. \$700. (601) 956-5452, after 5.

ORLANDO CONVENTION: Hotel rooms, suites, shuttle service, Disney arrangements, discount airfares, car rentals. Call CHRISTIAN TRAVELERS for convention packet. 1-800-972-8952.

ORGAN FOR SALE: Yamaha FX-20. Multiple Keyboard. Full pedal board. Ideal for home, chapel, or church. \$6000. Tupelo, MS. (601) 840-5125.

On May 17, 1991, a brilliant bolt of lightning struck the 90-member Valley Baptist Church in Middletown, Pennsylvania, causing a fire that destroyed the building.

"Church Mutual worked speedily to help us settle the claim and get on the road to rebuilding. They are an exceptional company, and I would endorse them 100%."

—Robert M. Colvin Jr., Pastor

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Highland Church, Crystal Springs, held a recognition service for its RAs and GAs on Sept. 26. RAs pictured, from left, are Matthew Lenard, Micheal Thornton, Matthew White, Luke Rials, Jonathan White, Christopher Thornton, Trey Spangler, Nathan Mitchell, Tyson Windom, Stephen Sims, Kelly McLendon, Vance Windom III, and Todd Clements. RA leaders are Mark (Tater) Anderson, Danny Sims, and Randy White.

GAs pictured, back row, are Bridgette McManus, Kimberly Clements, Heather Martin, Misty McManus, Bethany Windom, Jessica Greer, Kasey Nations; front row, Heather McLendon, Megan Moulder, and Kayce Lee. The leaders are Sharon Sims, Laura Thornton, Wanda McManus, and Ann Rials.

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The Mississippi College Opera Workshop will present a recital of Opera Scenes on Thursday, Nov. 18, in Aven Fine Arts Auditorium at 8:15 p.m. Scenes will be taken from the following operas: "The Mikado," "Hansel and Gretel," "The Bartered Bride," "Amahl and the Night Visitors," and "The Abduction from the Seraglio." The workshop is under the direction of Cynthia Coleman, assistant professor of music. Call 925-3440 for more information.

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Thursday, November 18, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Just for the Record



The youth choir "Renanah" of First Church, Collinsville, sang in six different churches while on tour in Louisiana and Mississippi. The 38 members (pictured) under the direction of Marie G. Hinson per-

form in drama, interpretive signing, as well as singing. Charles Hinson is minister of music. Ernie Nelson is youth minister. The pastor is David L. Sellers.

The Mustard Seed (home for developmentally handicapped) will have open house, Sunday, Nov. 21, 2-5 p.m. The Bells of Faith will present a short program at 3 p.m. The home is located at 571 Luckney Rd., one mile south of Liberty Baptist Church (Hwy 25), Brandon. For more information, call 992-3556.

Philipp Church, Philipp, will celebrate its 70th anniversary on Nov. 21 at 10:30 a.m., featuring the Glory Land Quartet. The guest speaker will be W.D. Dawkins, former pastor. The activities include a covered dish lunch at noon and 1:30 p.m. singing. C.C. Ard is pastor.

West McComb Church, McComb, will celebrate harvest and homecoming day on Sunday,

Nov. 21. Jimmy Fulton of Centronelle, Ala., a former member, will be the speaker. Thanksgiving covered dish dinner will be served following the worship service and a time of praise and singing will be held. Mike Pennock is pastor.

The Gospel Messengers will be in concert on Nov. 21 at Palestine Church, Raymond, 6 p.m. For more information, call 845-2453.

Grace Church, Brooklyn, will have its Thanksgiving Service on Nov. 21. Activities include the morning service at 11 a.m., noon meal in fellowship hall, and afternoon service at 1:30. W.A. Fordham, Petal, will be the guest speaker. Others on program will be Cole Family Singers, Pearl. T.W. Kendall is pastor.

The Peaveys, a gospel group, will be in concert at Oak Grove Church, Smithdale, at 7 p.m. Nov. 20. Harvest supper will follow the concert. Buddy McMorris is pastor.

Harmontown Church, Lafayette County, celebrated its 125th anniversary of the organization of the church, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 9-10. Barry Littlefield is pastor and Glen Herring is minister of music.

John Paul Jones, associational missionary for Mississippi Association, will conduct a special afternoon service Nov. 21 at **Enterprise Church, Liberty**, for the dedication of two newly completed Sunday School rooms. A fellowship meal will follow regular morning services. Odell Tebo is pastor.



Neshoba Association held its 74th annual meeting at the Neshoba Baptist Center on Oct. 20 with a special Victory Celebration. A note burning ceremony led by trustees Paul Killen and C.J. Hardy was held in recognition of the final payment on the \$154,000 loan on the multi-ministry facility. Special speakers included Kermit Sharp, former director of missions, Neshoba Association, and Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

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The Thought Occurred to Me; A Book about Owen Cooper

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Foreword by Jerry Clower
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Foreign Mission Board president, to evangelize
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Uniform To be forgiven



By Michael O'Brien
Genesis 33

More than anything else in this world, a man or a woman needs to know forgiveness. Failing to forgive someone is to rob that person of something he desperately needs. Failing to seek forgiveness is to rob yourself of something that you desperately need. Our story teaches us that people who have wronged others are responsible for making amends and for seeking forgiveness.

Caution (vv. 1-2). Jacob really did not know what to expect at this first meeting with his brother. As a precaution, he divides up his family into groups and sends them to intercept Esau in waves. I suppose that he ranked them in order of importance to himself, and had something happened to the first group, the others might escape.

Contrition (v. 3). Jacob was truly sorry for the way he had wronged Esau, his brother. His heart was filled with contrition and it is evidenced in his humility. He had sent lavish gifts, fit for a king. When he approached his brother, he humbled himself before him, bowing seven times. His humility was born out of his genuine contrition and his desire was for a brotherly relationship.

Reconciliation (v. 4). Esau would have none of it. He ran to his brother like the father of the prodigal and fell on his shoulder embracing him. He hugged him and kissed him; sorrow, sadness, and fear turned to joy as the brothers wept together. These were tears born of reconciliation. These brothers had been apart too long and now God had brought them back together. Can we learn from these two the joy that could be ours if we would take the first step toward reconciling with a brother, sister, parent, or even a discarded friend?

Introductions (vv. 5-7). "Who are these with you...?" It had been 20 years since these brothers had seen one another, and now Esau saw all of the people following Jacob. His reaction was like ours would have been, "Who are all of these folks with you?"

Jacob introduced his large family to his brother when he saw the wonderment of Esau. Reconciliation affects far more than the two people who are estranged. Are there people who would like to know your family, but have not met them because of some ancient problem? God will always bless every effort toward reconciliation — consider how far God went to reconcile us unto himself.

Restitution (vv. 8-11). Jacob insisted that Esau keep the gifts he had brought to him. Remember that Jacob had a heart filled with hope that his brother would accept him, and this token of generosity was as much for Jacob as it was for Esau. When we are forgiven, do we not feel there is something we can do, even should do, in return? When Esau accepted the gifts, Jacob could truly feel that he had been forgiven. Someone has said that to refuse a gift robs the giver of the blessing God has for that person's generosity. Gifts graciously offered should turn into gifts graciously accepted.

Separation (vv. 12-15). Having been granted the forgiveness of his brother, Jacob could see no reason to burden him with his large family and livestock. "Just let me find favor in the eyes of my Lord" (v. 15, NIV). For 20 years he had been troubled in his spirit about a hopeful reconciliation. Now he had it, and he was satisfied. The fact that they did not live together is no indication they were not together in spirit. They are simply independent and that can sometimes be good.

I love happy endings, don't you? Jacob bought Esau a piece of land, built him and his livestock a shelter, and set out to worship God. God had been so good to him and now he wanted to get things right. Verse 20 tells us, "There he set up an altar." We can learn from this — we should all have a family altar where we can worship the Lord.

O'Brien is pastor, First Church, Lexington.

Bible Book The law and daily life



By Jewel P. Merritt
Deuteronomy 18, 24, 25, 26

Wise parents have guidelines for their children to follow. Their children are taught the rules and know the consequences for breaking them. The parents want to guide their children along the best paths.

The Parent who is all-knowing is our heavenly Father. He has established rules for his children to follow. Since he cares about every aspect of our lives, his rules cover crime, war, human rights, sexual immorality, community life, and humane treatment. He is our perfect Father.

Laws related to prophets (18:21-22). Soon the psychics' predictions for 1994 will appear. Horoscopes will be plotted for the new year. Some of these predictions may come true. That does not mean that the person who made that prediction is a prophet.

God spoke through Moses the guidelines which would help his people evaluate the message of prophets. Was the prophecy fulfilled?

Some people read the newspaper with their Bibles close at hand. They see in every daily happening fulfillment of a biblical prophecy. In some instances this could be true. Old Testament prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, etc.) spent most of their time warning the people of the consequences of their sins. Signs of the times are interesting, but our primary concern should be the plight of the lost people around us.

Laws related to creditors (24:10-13). The Lord is compassionate. He has always cared for the poor, the orphans, and widows. The rules given in these verses dealt with treatment of a fellow Hebrew who had fallen on hard times. No interest was to be charged for a loan to him, but some personal item, such as a cloak, could be taken for collateral. This item was to be returned each evening so the poor man would not be cold at night. Truly, God is concerned with every aspect of our lives.

Laws related to business (25:14-15). In John 14:6 Jesus said, "I am the way, THE TRUTH, and the life." God has always been honest and just in his dealings with mankind. His children should exemplify this family characteristic.

Moses spoke here of dishonest weights, designed only to cheat. Such weights should not be found in the place of business of a believer.

Laws related to worship and giving (26:5-10a). My husband and I taught a class of single young adults for several years. Occasionally, a young lady would come in showing off an engagement ring. The groom-to-be would be standing by with a huge smile on his face. The diamonds we saw over the years varied in size, but they were always an expression of the love the man had for his fiancée. There was never any thought for how little he could spend on her ring. Since he saw the ring as an expression of his love for her, he often spent too much for it.

If your church has not already pledged its budget for next year, it will do so soon. How do we approach this time of year? Do we complain that "they" are always asking for money down at the church? Or do we view this as a time to give generously because we have received so much?

Moses reminded the people how good God had been to them. Because of a famine in their own land, Jacob and his family had moved to Egypt to join Joseph. In the 400 years they lived there, these 70 Israelites had grown to a great throng of people. They survived years of slavery. Indeed, they became stronger because of it. When their treatment became too harsh, they cried out to the Lord for deliverance. With his mighty hand he brought them out of Egypt and led them to the Promised Land. Because of God's deliverance, leadership, and provision for them, the people were to worship the Lord and bring their tithes to his house.

We have been delivered from slavery to sin. We were just as unable to save ourselves as were the Hebrew children. In light of God's great love for us and the price of our salvation, how can we offer anything but our best for him?

Merritt is a member of First Church, Jackson.

Life and Work The servant songs



By Mark A. Rathel
Isaiah 42, 49, 50

Isaiah composed an "original" servant song, a four-stanza masterpiece that dominates the second half of the book of Isaiah. The stanzas are found in 42:1-9; 49:1-7; 50:4-11; and 52:13-53:12. Christians grow through a study of The Servant Songs because the songs provide a portrait of Jesus. The Jewish people in the first century of the Christian era hoped for the advent of the Messiah; they did not envision a role for the Suffering Servant. Jesus, in his self-understanding, combined the concepts of the Messiah and the Suffering Servant.

The author in this lesson will provide a thematic study of the first three servant songs rather than a chapter-by-chapter analysis.

The Servant is divinely commissioned. The title "servant" is one of the most illustrious titles in the Old Testament. God ascribed the title "servant" to leaders such as Abraham, Moses, and David. The language of Isaiah 42 closely approximates the language used to describe David in 1 Samuel. The Servant, therefore, is a royal figure. Samuel proclaimed David as God's servant at his coronation. In contrast, God called the Servant from the womb (49:1, 5).

God equipped the Servant in a twofold manner. First, God put the Spirit upon him (42:1). The Spirit provides power for ministry. Second, the Lord fashioned an offensive weapon for the Servant, his mouth (49:2). The word of the Servant powerfully confronted his opponents.

According to the Servant's testimony, Yahweh performed a ministry to the Servant. God hid the Servant in the shadow of his hand, a poetic description of protection (49:2). The Lord promised to uphold or sustain the Servant (42:1) and the Servant affirmed that God functioned as his strength (49:5). Twice, the Servant testified, "The Lord helps me" (50:7, 9). Because of the sustaining power of God, the Servant confidently faced the future, secure in the knowledge that he would not be ashamed (50:7). The Servant knew God would vindicate him (50:8). The Servant obeyed the instruction of the Lord (50:4) and justly claimed innocence (50:5, 8). The Suffering Servant was without sin.

The Servant was sent on a divine mission. The first stanza heralds the universal ministry of the Servant. The Servant's mission is to establish justice for the nations (42:1, 3, 4). *Mishpat*, the Hebrew term translated "justice," denotes the quality of life attained through obedience to God's expectations. Justice will become a reality for the nations when the Royal Servant reigns. The far-away islands eagerly await the Servant's law (42:4). Many contemporary nations do not possess the Servant's law. You can help the Servant in the mission by contributing to the Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions.

The Servant's universal mission arose because of the rejection of the Jewish people. In regard to the Jewish people, the Servant sought to bring spiritual renewal (50:5-6). In response to the rejection of his kinsman (50:4), the Servant focused the light of God's salvation throughout the world (50:6). The Servant's mission is redemptive, to bring salvation to the entire world (50:6).

The Servant suffers. Many regard the Servant as despicable and abhorrent (49:7). People treated the sinless one as a lawbreaker (50:6). Spitting and plucking out the beard are acts of humiliation intended to punish lawbreakers (Num. 12:14; Deut. 25:9; Neh. 13:25). The Servant willingly suffered; he gave his back to the public beating (50:6). In addition, he did not cover his face to block the blows of his adversaries (50:6). Isaiah graphically predicted the treatment of Jesus by the Roman soldiers.

The innocent Servant suffered for a reason. The fourth Servant song, the study for next week, explains the suffering.

Rathel is pastor, Bay Vista Church, Biloxi.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village



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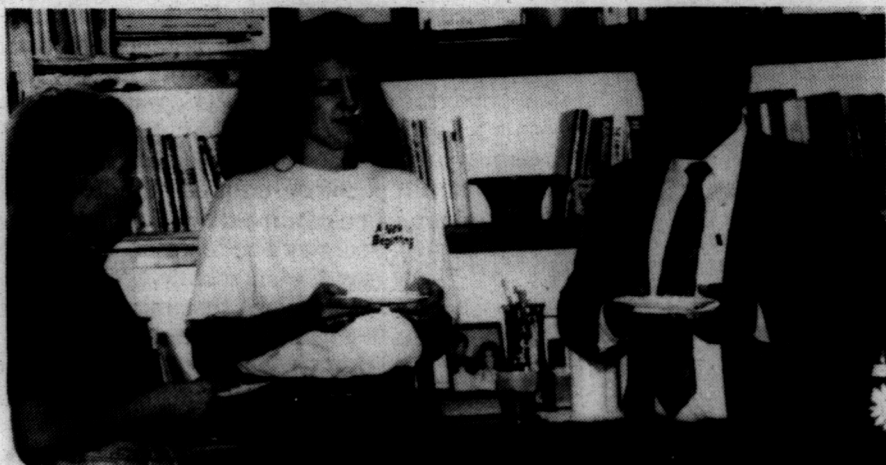
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At our annual teacher reception, Mrs. Elke Cox (left), Social Worker on our India Nunnery Campus, speaks with a Clinton Public School teacher regarding a BCV young person.



Mr. Willie McGinnis (right), Principal at Sumner Hill School in Clinton, and Dr. Sherry Vaughn (center), teacher at Sumner Hill, also attended the teacher reception sponsored by our Social Service Department. Dr. Vaughn's daughter (left) accompanied her to the reception.



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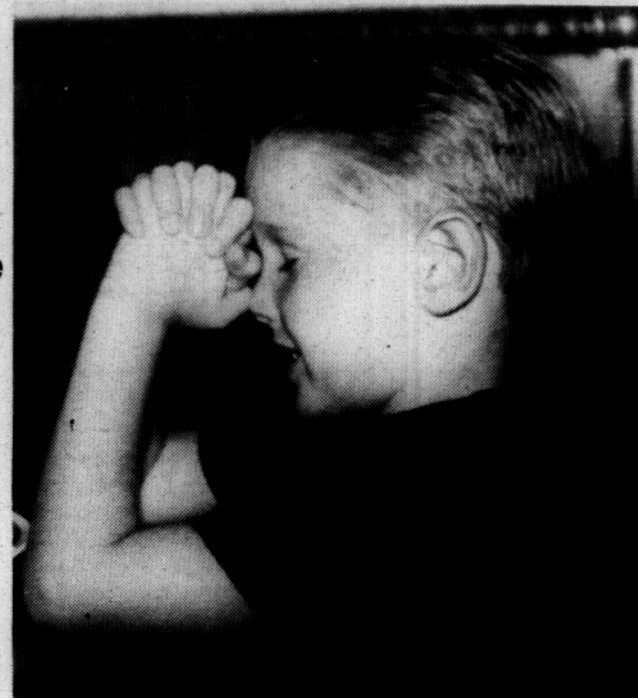
We all have so much that
causes us to be thankful.
We, among all people, are
most richly blessed. At this
Thanksgiving season the
words of a child's table grace
should echo deep within our
hearts —

*God is great, God is good,
Let us thank Him for our
food and friends.
Amen*

Our goal for the Thanks-
giving Season is \$60,000.
We have only received \$30,000 so far. Your children need your
love, support, and prayers.

As your church family plans now for a special Thanksgiving
please remember your larger family.

Happy Thanksgiving
Ronny



Gifts of Honor and Memory

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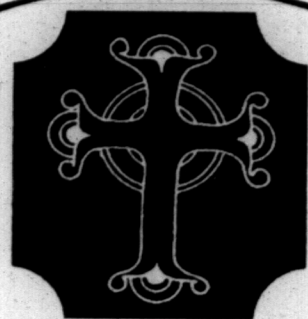
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At a recent Staff Meeting Mr. Terry Willis, Vice President of The Board of Trustees offered a charge and words of encouragement to co-laborers of The Baptist Children's Village. Mr. Willis is a long-time friend of the BCV and is well known in the Webster County community as a Village representative. His relationship with this ministry dates back to the 1970s. During the past two decades he has graciously assisted Social Workers in their endeavors, made countless referrals for families in need, and has been a tremendous asset in community outreach and education regarding BCV ministries. We are ever so thankful for his service — past and present.



Epitaph in Lydford Churchyard

Here lies in a horizontal position the outside case of George Routledge, Watchmaker. Integrity was the mainspring and prudence the regulator of all the actions of his life; humane, generous, and liberal, His hand never stopped till he had relieved distress. So nicely regulated were his movements that he never went wrong, except when set going by people who did not know his key. Even then he was easily set right again. He had the art of disposing of his time so well, that his hours glided away, his pulse stopped beating. He ran down November 14, 1801, aged 57, In hopes of being taken in hand by his Maker, Thoroughly cleaned, repaired, wound up, and set going in the world to come, when time shall be no more.

— From the scrapbook of Linda Jenkins, church secretary for 37 years at First Church, Yazoo City.

capsules

CATHOLICS ANNOUNCE PARTICIPATION IN "TRUE LOVE WAITS" CAMPAIGN: NASHVILLE (BP) — The two largest religious bodies in the United States are now actively involved in a nationwide campaign to encourage teenagers and college students to remain sexually pure until marriage. At a Nov. 12 press conference during the National Catholic Youth Conference in Philadelphia, officials with the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, Inc. announced plans for bringing the message of "True Love Waits" to Catholic teenagers. NFCYM is a networking organization which serves youth ministry offices in the Catholic dioceses across the United States. These dioceses include 19,000 parishes with a combined membership of more than 10 million teenagers. With the involvement of Catholics, the largest religious group in the country, "True Love Waits" is now supported by the two largest religious bodies in the nation, along with other denominations and para-church groups. The campaign is sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board, an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention, the country's largest Protestant denomination.

GREAT-GRANDSON UPDATES SHELDON'S "IN HIS STEPS": NASHVILLE (BP) — *In His Steps*, a little book of inspiration and advice for practical living published around the turn of the century, has been updated for Broadman & Holman Publishers by the author's great-grandson. *What Would Jesus Do?* is a contemporary retelling of Charles M. Sheldon's classic to bring the examples of everyday problems and crises into a more current perspective. Garrett Sheldon, the elder Sheldon's great-grandson, is a professor and chairman of the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the Clinch Valley College campus of the University of Virginia. He also is the author of books on Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. The classic original has sold 30 million copies.

PROMISE TO "SERVE GOD" OPTIONAL FOR GIRL SCOUTS: MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (EP) — Promising to "serve God" is now optional for Girl Scouts. Delegates to the national convention of the Girl Scouts of the USA, meeting in Minneapolis in late October, voted to allow members to customize the Girl Scout promise according to their own religious beliefs. Girl Scouts can now promise to serve Allah, Buddha, the Creator, or no one at all, depending on their own spiritual beliefs. Delegates voted 1,560 to 375 to allow variations in the wording of the Girl Scout promise. A proposal to launch a three-year study of the promise and the Girl Scout law was also approved. The traditional wording of the Girl Scout promise is, "On my honor, I will try to serve God and my country, to help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout law." The Girl Scout promise had been revised several times previously, but until now the reference to God has been constant.

Analysis —

Preachers, journalists can lessen distrust, study says

By Terry Mattingly

NEW YORK (BP) — When Jimmy Allen talks about "religion" and "news," he roams from the cradle to the grave and beyond.

"Here's the essence of religion: How did we get here, what do we do while we're here, how do we get out of here and where do we go?" said Allen, a past president of the Southern Baptist Convention and veteran of decades of media work. "Now, if newpeople started asking those kinds of questions, and if preachers gave them some honest answers, then you'd have some real news stories that people would read."

But most journalists don't know enough about religion to ask these big questions. Meanwhile, most clergy don't know enough about modern communications to give clear, media-friendly answers, said Allen during a conference on religion and the news at the Freedom Forum Media Studies Center at Columbia University.

The result is a chasm of misunderstanding and fear, according to

"Bridging the Gap: Religion and the News Media," a report written by Allen and Los Angeles Times religion writer John Dart.

Society, journalism, and religion are weakened by the distrust between two powerful professions, said John Seigenthaler, chairman of the Freedom Forum First Amendment Center in Nashville, which sponsored the report. The result is "two alien cultures... one rooted largely in a search for the facts and the other grounded in a discovery of faith beyond facts."

"Bridging the Gap" was based, in large part, on a survey of about 900 clergy, religion writers, and newspaper editors. It found 58% of mainline Protestants, 70% of Catholic priests, and 91% of evangelical clergy agreed, either strongly or somewhat, with this statement: "Most religion coverage today is biased against ministers and organized religion."

Only 18% of the journalists agreed. Also, 75% of the religion writers said religion was "very

important" in their lives and 72% of the editors said it was either very or somewhat important to them.

Based on this survey, and numerous interviews, Allen and Dart concluded most shallow and inaccurate news about religion is caused by ignorance and apathy, and rarely outright prejudice.

"It's obvious that something must be done about the religious IQs of American journalists," said Allen. Meanwhile, seminaries do little or nothing to prepare clergy to work in a media-driven society, he said.

Clergy must learn the hard lesson that the media do not exist to promote religious causes or to help smooth over divisions. At the same time, journalists must acknowledge that religion is one of the most powerful, and often positive, forces in American life.

When it comes to religion, most reporters are only interested in "politics, pageantry, and pedophilia," said Brian Healy, an active Catholic who is a senior CBS News producer. This is especially true in elite television newsrooms, where most journalists consider religious people either "silly," "backward," or "downright dangerous."

When it comes to the hot issues of faith, morality, and public life, such as abortion or gay rights, "most of my colleagues are one-minded and that mind is already made up," said Healy.

But Dart and Allen insisted the biggest problem is that many journalists are simply "tone deaf" to spiritual melodies in life. They wrote: "To them, religion in all of its complexity is either a disturbing cacophony of sounds or innocuous background music easily tuned out."

Mattingly teaches communications at Milligan College in Tennessee and writes a weekly column for Scripps Howard News Service. Reprinted with permission of the author and Scripps H

Devotional

Off or on "the hook"?

In his book, *Who Speaks of God?*, Charles Colson tells the story of Jack Eckerd, founder of the Eckerd chain of drugstores. Eckerd committed himself to Jesus Christ later in his life.

Shortly after his conversion he was walking through one of his stores when suddenly he became aware of the magazine racks full of copies of *Playboy* and *Penthouse* magazines. It wasn't that they had recently been placed on the shelves; Eckerd drugstores had been carrying them for quite some time. It was just that after coming to Christ, Jack Eckerd began to see the world of which he was a part with new eyes.

Although retired from active management, Eckerd called his president and urged him to clean out the magazines. Management protested: the sales accounted for substantial profits. As the largest stockholder in the corporation, Eckerd stood to lose a great deal of money, but he persisted. And he prevailed. By 1984, *Playboy*, *Penthouse*, and their pornographic cousins had been removed from all 1,700 Eckerd drugstores.

Colson later had occasion to ask him what motivated him to persevere when so much was at stake. Eckerd simply replied, "God wouldn't let me off the hook."

Colson commented, "The most learned theologian couldn't give a more eloquent description of the lordship of Christ in action."

If Jesus Christ won't let you "off the hook" about something in your life, then either you've reached a sufficient state of moral and spiritual perfection that nothing remains to amend, or you just aren't listening to God. More often than not, the latter is true.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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YINCIBD DIGIT: SBITSL-WOGI

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: First Timothy One: Fifteen.

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